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Elimination of racism and racial discrimination

Letter dated 30 October 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 30 October 1998, addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Aytuğ Plümer, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex would be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 108.

(*Signed*) Volkan **Vural**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Letter dated 30 October 1998 from Mr. Aytuğ Plümer to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (A/53/18), which contains, *inter alia*, the concluding observations of the Committee on the fourteenth periodic report submitted by the Greek Cypriot administration (CERD/C/299/Add.19), and to bring to your attention that the Turkish Cypriot side considers this report unacceptable in view of the erroneous and biased information it contains.

References are made in the report of the Committee to the "Government of Cyprus". It should be recalled that the 1960 bi-communal Republic of Cyprus, established by the 1959–1960 agreements on Cyprus, has been destroyed by force of arms in 1963 by the Greek Cypriot side. As a result of the Greek Cypriot armed onslaught, the machinery of government of the partnership state was illegally usurped by the Greek Cypriots. The continuous violations of the 1960 constitution by the Greek Cypriot side thus rendered the so-called "Government of Cyprus" illegal and unconstitutional. It follows, therefore, that the Greek Cypriot administration has no legal right to claim to represent the Republic of Cyprus as established in 1960 or to speak on behalf of the Turkish Cypriots or the island as a whole. The legitimate representatives of the Turkish Cypriots are those elected under the constitution of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

The report also refers to the "invasion", "occupation" and "continued division" of the island based on the one-sided information provided by the Greek Cypriot side. The Turkish intervention in 1974, in the wake of a *coup d'état* staged by Greece and its collaborators in Cyprus, was carried out in accordance with the 1960 Treaty of Guarantee, in order to prevent the forcible annexation of the island to Greece and to protect the Turkish Cypriots against the onslaught by Greek Cypriots. Furthermore, by 1974, the island had already been divided for 11 years as a result of the Greek Cypriot armed onslaught in December 1963. It should be recalled that a "green line" was established in early 1964 to prevent Greek Cypriot atrocities against the Turkish Cypriot people and that a United Nations peacekeeping force had been dispatched to the island in March 1964 to police this line.

It is rather unfortunate that the report concludes, in paragraphs 332 and 339, that the Greek Cypriot administration "is still prevented, by the use of force, from implementing the provisions of the Convention" in the North and is "prevented ... from undertaking any census or other relevant data collection" on the whole of the island. These allegations are based on the false premise that the sovereignty of the Greek Cypriot side extends over the island as a whole, including Northern Cyprus. The reality is that ever since the forcible destruction of the partnership state in 1963, the illegal writ of the Greek Cypriots has never extended to areas administered by the Turkish Cypriots. The Greek Cypriot side has no control or any say over Northern Cyprus, which is under the jurisdiction and sovereignty of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. As is well known, as a practical consequence of the events of 1963–1974, parallel administrative, judicial and legislative organs for each of the two peoples have emerged. The Turkish Cypriot people have formed a democratic and secular state, with a plural system based on free elections, social justice and the rule of law, and its citizens enjoying all human rights and liberties.

Furthermore, it is ironic for the Committee to express concern about the Greek Cypriot side's "inability" to implement international instruments when the historical record shows clearly that during the period 1963–1974 even the most fundamental rights of the Turkish Cypriot people, including their right to life, liberty and security, were grossly and

systematically violated. The world witnessed a wave of unprecedented cruelty which culminated in an ethnic cleansing operation against the Turkish Cypriots. The periodic reports of the Secretary-General of the United Nations bear solid testimony to the flagrant violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of Turkish Cypriots during that period. The conditions under which the Turkish Cypriots were forced to live was described by the Secretary-General as a "veritable siege" (see S/5950 of 10 September 1964). Therefore, all references to the "forcible prevention of the implementation of the provisions of the Convention" or to the "artificial division of the island that hinders efforts to reduce tension among the communities", can only be described as seriously misguided or totally hypocritical.

I would like to emphasize that the underlying cause of the ongoing tension on the island is the massive militarization campaign of the Greek Cypriot side, coupled with its hostile and provocative policies against the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. The ongoing embargoes and restrictive measures employed against Northern Cyprus are glaring examples of the discriminatory policies of the Greek Cypriot administration.

While the report welcomes, in paragraph 336, the "efforts and initiatives" of the Greek Cypriot administration in the field of education, there is no mention of the fact that the education system in South Cyprus aims to spur militancy among the population against the Turkish Cypriots and Turkey. A recently published official report on education by the Greek Cypriot administration has confirmed that the primary aim of education in South Cyprus is to teach Greek Cypriot children not to forget the so-called "occupation". One educational programme taught at schools is called "I get to know, I do not forget, I struggle against the occupation". The Greek Cypriot daily, *Cyprus Mail*, of 7 October 1998, quoted Greek Cypriot authorities describing the aim of the programme as educating children to "wake up and see Pentadactylos [a mountain range in Northern Cyprus] and not to forget about their villages in the North". The official Greek Cypriot report on education further states:

> "The programme formed the spine of militancy in schools and the route of the people of Cyprus for achieving its visions. The main target is to keep alive the memory of our land still under occupation, to foster and strengthen optimism, confidence and militancy for freedom and return to our fatherland."

Finally, I would like to emphasize that perpetuating the fallacy of treating the illegal Greek Cypriot regime as the legitimate government of the whole island can only block the way towards a settlement. The international community can help promote a peaceful resolution of the dispute by treating the two states on Cyprus equally and fairly.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 108.

(*Signed*) Aytuğ **Plümer**
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus